



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

Meeting Notes

April 27, 2004 ■ 6:00 p.m.

Conference Room A
Ground Floor, City Hall

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Will Anderson, Sharon Beard, Ahrash Bissell, Mathew Greenwolfe, Judy Kincaid, Darryl Roberts, Bill Harnett, Rick Crume, and Kathi Beratan

Members Absent: Dock Terrell, Ray Eurquhart

Guests Present:

Staff Present: William Sun, Keith Luck, and Kathleen Snyder

Meeting Notes:

Kathi Beratan, Chairman, presided and called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the meeting notes was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Introduction of New Board Members

Kathi Beratan introduced to the Board two new members, Rick Crume and Bill Harnett. Bill Harnett and Rick both work for the EPA in air quality. Mr. Harnett is filling the air quality position and Mr. Crume is filling the engineering position for the Board. They both briefly talked about their backgrounds and interests. Mr. Harnett is interested in international issues and Mr. Crume is concerned with air quality and public health. In addition, Mr. Crume believes strongly in alternative energy construction and has built a solar house. The board introduced themselves and welcomed Mr. Harnett and Mr. Crume.

Informational Items

1. Kathleen Snyder announced that Heidi Duer will be coming to the May meeting of the EAB. She is coming to speak about the County's Performance Accountability Program. Ms. Snyder went on to say that Ms. Duer would be discussing the EAB's possible role in implementing this program.
2. Kathi Beratan gave a handout on the City of Durham's Budget process. She explained that this was not the actual budget, but more along the lines the City's logic in approaching the upcoming budget.

Old Business

Chairperson Beratan proposed the creation of a nominating committee to prepare for the upcoming Board officer elections in June. Will Anderson and Judy Kincaid were selected to comprise the committee.

New Business

1. The first item discussed was the possible formation of a committee to deal with the issue of air quality. Chairperson Beratan emphasized that air quality is going to be a very important environmental issue in light of the EPA's non-compliance classification of the area. She conveyed County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow's concern on this matter and her suggestion that the EAB form a committee to address air quality. The members that were mentioned as possible committee members are Bill Harnett, Rick Crume, Sharon Beard, and Judy Kincaid. After much discussion as to whether the EAB had a clear mandate to form the committee, Ahrash Bissell suggested that the EAB could have a less formal approach to this matter. It was agreed upon that Bill Harnett and Kathleen Snyder would meet with Ellen Reckhow to gather further information to clarify this request.
2. The Board discussed brainstorming issues that they might consider as their highest priorities for future work. Some of the areas mentioned were air quality, human health, water quality, and green building. Each member took a few minutes to write down 5 specific goals or actions to be worked on by the EAB in the next year. Each item identified the main issue it is addressing. The members then one item at a time in round-robin style until all of the items were heard. Keith Luck clarified and recorded the ideas on a large paper tablet. Some minimal grouping of the items and issues was done during the recording process. Each member received 5 dots and voted by placing them adjacent to the items that they felt are the most important for the EAB to deal with in the near future. Upon completing the voting, the members decided that planning staff member Kathleen Snyder should report on the results of the voting and create an initial grouping of the items for the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Snyder, Planner
May 17, 2004